

MAR 28 1963

SAN DIEGO UNION **Approved For Release 2000/05/24 : CIA-RDP70-00058**

MORNING 104,456
SUNDAY 205,475

STATINTL

MAR 28 1963

Missile Gap Nonexistent, Dulles Says

The San Diego Union's
Washington Bureau
Codley News Service

WASHINGTON — There never was a missile or bomber gap during the 1950s, according to Allen W. Dulles, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Democratic charges that the Eisenhower administration had allowed Russia to take the lead in the development of intercontinental ballistic missiles became a major issue in the 1960 presidential campaign.

During the first Eisenhower term, Democrats charged that Russia was gaining superiority over the United States in long-range bombers.

FEARS RAISED

Dulles said fears were raised in intelligence and defense circles for a time in each case, but that the fears faded as more complete analysis of Russian moves was made.

Dulles said the United States became wary of Russian missile programs in 1956 on the basis of the first photographs from high-flying U2 reconnaissance planes.

At that time, he said, Russia had "bulky, somewhat awkward but effective ICBMs." He said a thorough analysis was initiated to determine Russia's missile production ability.

"It was due to this measure of uncertainty during the late 1950s that the national debate over the so-called missile gap developed," Dulles said in an article written for Harper's magazine.

Defense Secretary Robert McNamara admitted in 1962 that the missile gap never existed.

ESTIMATE LOWERED

Dulles said for a time it was uncertain whether Russia would plunge into a huge program, involving the early ICBM or choose more orderly development of missiles. He said as soon as it was apparent that the Russians were taking the second course, the CIA lowered its estimates and the missile gap disappeared.

Dulles said that in the mid-'50s Russia had developed a long-range heavy bomber and the capacity to build it in large numbers. Production did not increase, however, and Dulles said the plane's performance was not satisfactory.

"The bomber gap never materialized," he said.